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found. This occurs some sixty different times throughout the work and is a serious blemish from the point of view of the scholar or of the student of history. Occasionally it is possible to check a misstatement which runs counter to what is generally understood by the current observer. Burbank did not evolve the spineless cactus but obtained the seeds of this form of cactus from the federal department of agriculture. Immigration into Canada is not stimulated by corporation interest as with us. The material lot of the Indian is not at present the best in their history, too many illustrations to the contrary can be cited by the well informed. Such errors of facts raise doubts as to the general accuracy of the other numerous statements of facts. On page 335 the author says: "A large proportion of the negro vote is purchasable and lends itself easily to the selfish schemes of designing men who have money with which to buy." This may or may not be true; no evidence is offered and we are left with a mere statement of this grave political abuse on the author's word. Some other general remarks at the beginning of the work leave one in doubt as to the validity of the evidence upon which they are based. On page 10 occurs the following: "It is altogether probable that the next decade will determine the future of our Great Experiment." Again, on page 32 we are told that "The truth of history is that throughout its career the United States has been imperialistic." This may be the utterance of truth based on profound insight into our national life but it may be something quite the reverse. The author shows an amiable weakness for generalizing something after the following fashion: "It is not by destroying each other that labor and capital can best serve their own interests and those of their common country but by getting together."

As producing a mere piece of compilation the author has done the general public a considerable service but whatever value such a work may possess has not been at all enhanced by the numerous impromptu expressions of opinion found in every chapter.

ORIN G. LIBBY

*The American college.* By Isaac Sharpless, president, Haverford College. [The American books.] (Garden City, New York: Doubleday, Page and Company, 1915. 221 p. \$.60 net)

The titles of the five chapters of this book are, "History of the American college," "College administration," the "Courses of study," "Student life," and the "Functions of the college." The first chapter sketches briefly the founding of nine of the colonial colleges and outlines the changes in the courses of study and the other phases of the development of the American college up to the present time. In the other chapters Mr. Sharpless gives the reader an acquaintance not only with all the

sides of an American college or university, such as its governing board, president, faculty, alumni, course of study, student organizations and activities, but also with the controversies as to coeducation, vocational studies, the elective system, fraternities, athletics, freedom of speech of professors, and like questions. The author briefly and clearly presents the arguments on both sides of the controversies, and though his position on each question is evident, he is not prolix or insistent with his own opinions.

Mr. Sharpless strongly criticizes the lack of thoroughness in the entire American educational system and the tendency of men in many of the higher institutions to take technical courses and specialize early. The need of democracy, he says, is for disciplined and cultured leaders, and the problem of the American college is to produce them. He inclines to the view that the liberal education which it is the purpose of the college, as distinct from the university, to provide is the kind most suited for the making of such leaders. Many will not agree with the author on this point. Some will contend that the advantages which the author thinks attach to all colleges are possessed only by the best of the small colleges.

Though designed for the general reader, this work by Mr. Sharpless will be of interest to those engaged in college work as expressing the opinions of an experienced educator.

E. T. MILLER

*The department of state of the United States.* Its history and functions.

By Gaillard Hunt, Litt.D., LL.D., lately chief of the bureau of citizenship, department of state. (New Haven: Yale University Press; London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press, 1914. 459 p. \$2.25 net)

This volume and that of Mr. Learned on the *President's cabinet*, issued by the same press, form the beginning of what might well be made a series dealing with the national administration of the United States government. Mr. Hunt's book has developed from a historical sketch of the department, prepared in connection with the world's fair at Chicago in 1893. It deals with the formation and development of the department, and with its internal organization and functional activities.

In the first five chapters are considered in detail the embryonic history of the department: the committees of the continental congress, the department of foreign affairs under the articles of confederation, and the beginnings of the new department under the constitution of the United States. Later chapters deal with the "sometime" and "occasional" duties of the department, its administrative subdivisions, and its various functions, such as the seal, the laws, the diplomatic and consular service,